ments/Institutions for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Units.

(f) and (g) Bone Marrow transplantation is a very costly and cumbersome process with low success rate. It is being undertaken in highly specialised institutions like Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

Nursing Homes in Delhi

525. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nursing Homes are mushrooming in all parts of the Capital without any set norms and regulations for maintenance of standards, especially in view of the fact that the law governing the setting up and running of Nursing Homes in Delhi is old and outdated;

(b) if so, when was the present law enacted;

(c) what are the reasons for not updating the law in this regard; and

(d) by when the same is liekly to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) There has been an increase in the opening of Nursing Homes in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act was enacted in the year 1953 and rules thereunder were framed in the year 1966. As per the Delhi Nursing Homes Act and Rules, Nursing Homes are required to fulfil set norms and standards as laid down in the Act and Rules for registration. With a view to streamlining the working of Nursing Homes, there is a proposal to amend the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, enhancing the penalty for non-registration. However, in the meunwhile to make the provisions of the Act more effective, the Delhi Nursing Homes Rules, 1966 have been amended and notified vide Delhi Nursing Homes Registration (Amendment) Rules, 1991 on 4-11-1991.

Medical and Dental Colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

526. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is mushroom growth of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the colleges have been approved by the Medical Council as well as Dental Council; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to check the growth of such colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):

(a) and (b) The Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India have infromed that some medical colleges and dental colleges have been started in these States without the prior approval of the concerned Council and some of these colleges have not been approved as they do not fulll the minimum requirements laid down by these Councils.

(c) The report of the Joint Committee of the Parliament on the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill providing for prior permission of the Council for the establishment of new medical college is already before the Rajya Sabha and as soon

as the Bill is passed the mushroom growth of sub-standard colleges will be controlled. Similarly, the Dental Council of India is engaged in amending the Dentists Act,1948 to provide for prior permission of the Council to check the growth of sub-standard dental colleges.

Cases of Gastro-enteritis

527. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of Gastro-enteritis that have been reported during the last four months in the country;

(b) what is the number of cases of deaths due to the disease, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to contain and eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Unrecognised Medical Colleges

528. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Indian Express dated the 7th November 1991, under the caption. Unorganised Medical colleges prepare to spew graduates on unsuspecting souls";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what are the reasons for lack of a monitoring system; and

(d) what steps are being taken to strengthen the machinery for reducing the dangers likely to arise from this situation and also for re-examining the cases of existing medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government are aware of the danger of proliferation of sub-standard medical colleges and have accordingly taken action to amend the Indian Medical Council Act to provide necessary powers to the Medical Council of India to approve or disapprove the establishment of new colleges after taking into consideration various factors including facilities of staff, equipment, accommodation, etc. As regards existing medical colleges, there is already a provision under section 19 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 to enable the Council to recommend to the Central Government the derecognition of any medical college which does not confirm to the standards prescribed by it.

529. [*Transferred to the 3rd December, 1991*]

Doctors in India

530. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of doctors at present in the country; and

(b) what steps are being taken to provide more medical facilities to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The estimated number of registered medical practitioners in different systems of medicine in the coun-